**Internet Dilemma**

An interesting situation has popped up in our school. We are one-to-one, even though I don't think that is very relevant because the following can happen anywhere. I would appreciate your perspective as teachers (I have my own opinions, but I do see both sides).

Here it is:

In the 9th grade English curriculum, there are two teachers who are assigned to this grade. They worked very hard to add an interesting novel to the curriculum recently. In doing so, these teachers found some great resources online that allowed them to engage their students in meaningful activities and discussions as they assigned the reading. Thanks to the Internet, these teachers did not have to reinvent the wheel-they found a great packet of resources online that they could use. Now, here comes the glitche…by using these great materials (study guides, worksheets, writing prompts, tests and quizzes-yes, tests and quizzes), the teachers thought they were saving themselves time until the kids who were given these materials started to also look for help on the Internet. Low and behold, these kids stumbled upon the very source that the teachers used to get the materials—and this source also provided the answers to everything at the end of one nice and neat 30-page pdf file! Now, these frustrated teachers want to search every laptop to see who is "cheating" and who isn't. They want the kids who looked at the pdf file to fail all the activities for the novel and to be given detention. I don't know how they would ever search the entire 9th grade class (if they were permitted by our principal) without kids catching on and deleting the information once their friends let them know. And this idea doesn't account for kids who may have used phones or other home computers to do the searching.

I know that these teachers are frustrated, but I don't fault kids for looking for help and using the resources they have access to online. They had no idea that the handouts with answers were so easily accessible online.

What is correct morally and ethically? I can feel the teachers' frustrations, but I can also understand the students' perspective. What is the solution? Is there even an answer? The Internet is amazing for its ability to help us answer questions and find information. How can teachers deal with situations like this?

Your thoughts?

* I do not think it is fair to fail the students for their mistakes for not realizing the answers were searchable for the students.
* The solution could be have the students do the assignment as a report and add onto the assignment.